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BERGFR HAS SIGNED TO PLAY WITH COLTS

(Continued from first page.)

Frank Norcum, is reserved by the Cotton States League, and there may be some trouble in getting that organization to turn him loose, as Norcum demonstrated last season, when he worked the Peters-

burg-Roanoke games which decided the pennant race, that he is quite nifty at handling the indicator. Good umpires being rather in demand, it is highly improbable that the Cotton States will give him up without some opposition. Umpire Jack Kennedy is mentioned as having signed a contract. Like Norcum, Kennedy comes from the Cotton States, and is said to be good.

In the number of players having signed Virginia League contracts, Norfolk and Portsmouth lead the bunch. Norfolk has six contracts in hand, while Portsmouth has ten. As yet Richmond has registered with Secretary Farrell but two signed contracts—J. C. Phipps, the local student at the Medical College of Virginia, who is touted as a great twirler by no less a person than Doc Ayers, and Manager Steve Griffin. However, Secretary Bradley has in his strong box papers signed by Harvey Bussey, who is wintering in Wilmington, N. C., and A. O. Burleson, of St. Petersburg, Fla., who came to Richmond as a result of the Baker-Mattis-Newton-Burleson

The local magnate is not worrying. He knows that they will

all be in the fold before reporting time arrives. Incidentally, Steve Griffin has Bresnahan's contract, and also that of the pitcher-recruit Bridges, which swells the list considerably. They will all be drifting in shortly.

List of Contracts Recorded.

Following will be found a list of all the players signed by the several Virginia League clubs, or rather, a list of the contracts which have been filed with Secretary Farrell:

With Norfolk—Steve Gaston, William Garter, Charles A. Shaffer, W. T. Campbell, Sam Wyckoff, Roy Griebel, Richard Kelly, J. A. Edwards, Roy Litz, Harry Joyce.

With Roanoke—J. E. Luttrell, Mark Stewart, Ralph Mattis.

With Portsmouth—Budd VanSlyke, A. C. McDermott, W. E. Mundy, Danny Phelan, D. C. Bratten, Alden Ruller, Frank Bratten, Arthur Hunt, Walter Lynch, George P. Partin.

With Richmond—J. C. Phipps, Steve Griffin.

With Virginia League—Umpire Jack Kennedy.

With Roanoke—J. E. Luttrell, Arthur A. Howell.

Every city in the Virginia League is now advancing an argument why the opening game of the Virginia League season should be played there.

It is a very natural impulse on the part of the six cities concerned. Beginning the season, Richmond has been beating the home club the idea that it is beating the banner a trifle, getting the edge on the rest of the bunch by at least a nose. And, in minor leagues, where there is a great difference in the population of the cities forming the circuit, a certain amount of prestige goes with being selected as one of the cities in which the curtain is raised for the season's show.

But there are just six cities in the Virginia league and obviously, three of this six must be disappointed. Richmond may be eliminated at once, for it is an absolute certainty that the keystone town in the arch of the Virginia league will be one of the favorites with the opening day by every schedule drafted. It is also a certainty

Petersburg, after the "hook" which had agreed to play the season made by the Heins, of Roanoke.

It may prove merely a tempest in a thimble, and then it may mean that the magnates, when they gather here about the middle of next week, will find a very knotty problem to solve. The fact that five of the six clubs of the circuit are located in the eastern section of the State, while one club is in the other section, makes the question of schedule somewhat more of a problem than if all six clubs were located as they were formerly, three in the east and three in the west. There will always be more or less balking at making the long jump, especially when the crowd, though a bawdy city, has not been extremely generous in supporting the ball club.

gagement. That's a custom which has obtained ever since the pretty town on the south bank of the Appomattox has been trying for baseball honors—a custom, however, which carries none

This leaves the battle a four-cornered one between Portsmouth, Norfolk, Newport News and Roanoke. Portsmouth has usually begun with Norfolk in Norfolk, saying consider-

able car fare and lingering together probably the deadliest rivals in the circuit. This season Portsmouth is clamoring that Norfolk come across the ferry and slug it in Ward U. The Pirate argument is not a bad one, since during last season Norfolk carried no medals for drawing capacity. Still, that question will not worry the schedule makers to any considerable extent, because it is practically certain that the Norfolk and Portsmouth will get an opening date, and that whichever is successful, the game will be played with the neighboring club.

Roanoke Puts Forth Claim

Newport News and Richmond will then fight for the right to play the game with the carfare between the two cities. Roanoke's claim for consideration is based on the fact that the Magicians, though always living within the rule of the league and causing no trouble, have never had an opening date. To offset this argument, Newport News will reply that Roanoke is unable to draw crowds sufficient to warrant this choice date being allotted. On this point will hinge the squabble. The whole question will hinge upon which town is willing to make the most concessions for the plum. This same question arose last season, after the eight-club league

17, in one of the fastest, roughest and hardest fought basketball games seen here this season. The game was marked by fouls. Rivermont committing ten and Roanoke nine. The lineup:

Rivermont	Position	Roanoke
Menefee.....	R. F.....	Tillman
J. Menefee.....	L. F.....	Shedden
C. McLeod.....	Centre	E. Davis
		Reeves
W. McLeod.....	R. G.....	Mahew
James.....	L. G.....	L. Davis
Summary:	Field goals—C. McLeod	
(4), J. Menefee (4), James, T. Menefee,		
E. Davis (2), Mahew, Tillman (2).		
Goals from fouls—T. Menefee (4), E. Davis (4), Reeves (3), Umpires—Johnson, of Lynchburg; Trues, of Roanoke.		

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